

5    Abstract

          A method for a liquid-liquid extraction of hydrophilic organic compounds from aqueous solutions thereof is described. The method generally includes intermixing a sufficient quantity of a specified glycol ether with the aqueous liquor at a first temperature  
10    to form a suspension comprising an aqueous raffinate phase and a glycol ether extract phase; separating the glycol ether extract phase from the aqueous raffinate phase; heating the glycol ether extract phase to a second, higher temperature to form a suspension comprising an aqueous extract phase containing a portion of the hydrophilic organic compound and a glycol ether raffinate phase; and separating this glycol ether raffinate  
15    phase from the aqueous extract phase. The selected glycol ether has an inverse solubility in water and the partition ratio, value  $K$ , for the hydrophilic organic compound is greater than 0.1.

          This method is useful for recovering valuable hydrophilic organic acids produced via fermentation or produced or used in various manufacturing processes.